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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/720,445

11/25/2003

Masayuki Ishizaki

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EXAMINER

ZHONG, JUN FEI

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/720,445	Applicant(s) ISHIZAKI, MASAYUKI	
	Examiner JUN FEI ZHONG	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/25/2003</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of in the reply filed on 2/7/2008 is acknowledged. Claims 1-17 are elected.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 11/25/2003. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Priority

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-4, 13, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenner et al. (patent # US 5956716) in view of Oishi (Pub # US 2002/0118608).

As to claim 1, Kenner discloses a digital broadcast distribution signal distribution system (Fig. 1 and 4) comprising:

two or more distribution centers (e.g., index managers ("IM") 64, 88, 90; Fig. 4), communicably connected to one another through a communication line (e.g., high speed dedicated line 96; Fig. 4), each of said distribution centers for distributing a digital broadcast distribution signal, which has been created based on program information received in each said distribution center, to subscribers through a network, for sending the digital broadcast distribution signal to another of said distribution centers and for receiving a digital broadcast distribution signal from another of said distribution centers (see col. 7, line 14-col. 8, line 50; col. 20, line 10-col. 21, line 16; col. 26, line 26-col. 27, line 22);

subscriber terminals (e.g., user terminal 14; Fig. 1), each for receiving a digital broadcast distribution signal distributed from one of the distribution centers through the network so that a subscriber views a program (see col. 8, lines 15-50),

each said distribution center (e.g., index managers ("IM") 22; Fig. 1) including a signal replacement section (e.g., creating DSI 30; Fig. 1) for replacing the first-named digital broadcast distribution signal created based on the program information received in each said distribution center with the second-named digital broadcast distribution signal, which each said distribution center received from another of said distribution centers (see col. 12, line 4-col. 13, line 9; col. 25, lines 13-36; Fig. 1 and 4),

Kenner does not specifically disclose CATV network and subscriber terminals including a distribution plan storage, a distribution center discriminating section, a receiving section.

Oishi discloses a CATV (Community Antenna Television) network (e.g., CATV network 4, 24; Fig. 1, 2) (see paragraph 0007, 0083)

subscriber terminals (e.g., reception system 25; Fig. 2) including

a distribution plan storage (e.g., EEPROM 76; Fig. 15) for retaining channel distribution plans, one representing distribution setting information of the first-named digital broadcast distribution signal of each said distribution center (Kenner discloses user terminal downloads audio-visual information; see col. 8, lines 14-25) (see paragraph 0142, 0151, 0154-0155),

a distribution center discriminating section (e.g., IC card 32; Fig. 2, 15) for discriminating the one distribution center that has created the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal, which is received in each said subscriber terminal (see paragraph 0055, 0137-0138),

a receiving section (e.g., receiver 31) for changing, if the one distribution center is discriminated not to be a predetermined distribution center, NIT information of the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal based on the channel distribution plans of the one distribution center and the predetermined distribution center, and receiving the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal (e.g., NIT rewriting portion 42 rewrites NIT information; CATV station 23

and receiver 31 could be resided in one computer; see paragraph 0083, 0092-0100, 0191; Fig. 2, 7, 21).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have subscriber terminal as taught by Oishi to the video delivery system of Kenner in order to enable a redistributing source itself to easily control use of services to be supplied to viewers in a redistributing system of digital satellite broadcasts (see paragraph 0013).

As to claim 2, Kenner discloses a digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 1, further comprising a local station (e.g., local SRU 18), communicably connected to one of said distribution centers, for sending the third-digital broadcast distribution signal from the last-named one distribution center to subscribers downstream of said local station without changing at least PSI/SI (Program Specific Information/Service Information) of the third digital broadcast distribution signal (see col. 8, line 50-col. 10, line 9; Fig. 1).

Oishi discloses PSI/SI information (see paragraph 0059).

As to claim 3, Kenner discloses a digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 1, wherein said signal replacement section in each said distribution center replaces the first-named digital broadcast distribution signal with the second-named digital broadcast distribution signal in accordance with a reception state of the

first digital broadcast distribution signal at each said distribution center (see col. 26, lines 26-67).

As to claim 4, it contains the limitations of claim 3 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 3 above.

As to claim 13, Kenner discloses a digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 1, further comprising a repeater (e.g., local SRU 18) for relaying the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal in the CATV network (see col. 8, line 50-col. 10, line 9; Fig. 1).

As to claim 15, Kenner discloses a digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the first-named digital broadcast distribution signal and the second-named digital broadcast distribution signal of each said distribution center are sent and received through the communication line via Internet Protocol (IP) (see col. 20, lines 10-34; Fig. 4).

As to claim 17, Oishi discloses digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 1, wherein each said subscriber terminal further includes a distribution plan obtaining section (e.g., controller 80; Fig. 15) for obtaining the channel distribution plans that are to be stored in said distribution plan storage (see paragraph 0126-0132).

6. Claims 5-12, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenner et al. in view of Oishi, and further in view of Medin (Pub # US 2004/0205339).

As to claim 5, note the discussion above, Oishi discloses a CATV (Community Antenna Television) network (e.g., CATV network 4, 24; Fig. 1, 2) (see paragraph 0007, 0083);

Both Kenner and Oishi fail to disclose CATV network includes an optical fiber.

Medin discloses CATV network includes an optical fiber (see Abstract, paragraph 0011, 0033, 0036; Fig. 1);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have fiber optics as taught by Medin to the video delivery system of Kenner as modified by Oishi in order to provide network architecture and operation is scalable to larger size and/or higher speeds, and delivering high-performance online multimedia services (see paragraph 0010-0011).

As to claim 9, Medin discloses analog transmission is performed on the third-named broadcast distribution signal while being distributed to each said subscriber terminal in the CATV network (see paragraph 0051, 0054-0055, 0059).

As to claims 6-8 and 10-12, they contain the limitations of claims 5, 9 and are analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claims 5, 9 above.

As to claim 14, Medin discloses communication line that communicably connects said distribution centers is a ring network (see paragraph 0031-0033; Fig. 1).

As to claim 16, Medin discloses signal is distributed to each said subscriber terminal by using IP multicast (see paragraph 0067, 0105, 0106).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ohishi et al. (Patent # US 6480551) is cited to teach updating NIT information.

Buxton (Pub # US 2003/0204856) is cited to teach VOD system server.

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jun Fei Zhong whose telephone number is 571-270-1708. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 7:30-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on 571-272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2623

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JFZ
4/25/2008

/Vivek Srivastava/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2623